

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2671

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CH US OEXC SCUL

SUBJ: TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON US-PRC CULTURAL EXCHANGES

REF: PEKING 2644

1. SUMMARY: PROFESSOR CHOU WEN-CHUNG OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY WHO ACCOMPANIED RECENT NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON US CHINA RELATIONS DELEGATION WAS GRANTED AN 18 DAY EXTENSION TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH PRC CULTURAL AND MUSIC OFFICIALS. RESULT OF STAY IS THAT PRC OFFICIALS AGREED TO A NUMBER OF EXCHANGES, INCLUDING A VISIT TO THE PRC OF AN AMERICAN PIANIST, A VIOLINIST, A SINGER, A CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, AND AN EXCHANGE OF MUSICAL RESEARCH

MATERIALS. END SUMMARY.

2. PROFESSOR CHOU WEN-CHUNG WAS GRANTED AN 18 DAY EXTENSION OF HIS PRC STAY AFTER HE ACCOMPANIED THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SINO-US RELATIONS DELEGATIONS (OCTOBER 19-NOVEMBER 4). BESIDES DISCUSSING THE TECHNICAL DETAILS OF THE 1978 VISIT TO THE US OF THE PRC PERFORMING  
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ARTS TROUP (REFTEL), CHOU WAS GIVEN BROAD ACCESS TO PRC CULTURAL AND MUSICAL OFFICIALS. HE HELD PRIVATE AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTRY OF CULTURAL OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CENTRAL MAY 7 COLLEGE OF THE ARTS (TO BE ABOLISHED SOON), THE CENTRAL MUSIC INSTITUTE, AND THE CENTRAL VISUAL ARTS INSTITUTE. SPECIFICALLY, HE WAS SINGLED OUT BY

CHOU YANG ASSOCIATE LI CHI, NOTED PAINTER WU TSO-JEN, CENTRAL MUSIC INSTITUTE DEAN CHAO FENG AND CONDUCTOR CENTRAL PHILOMANIC ORCHESTRA LI TE-LUNG FOR LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS. IN ADDITION, CHOU WAS INVITED TO GIVE A 2 1/2 HOUR LECTURE COVERING SIX QUESTIONS ON THE "STATE OF THE PERFORMING ARTS IN THE WEST" TO A GROUP OF RANKING MUSICIANS. CHOU DESCRIBED THE RESPONSE TO HIS TALKS AS "VERY ENTHUSIASTIC, VERY POSITIVE AND VERY DIRECT". WHEN HE SHOWED THEM MATERIALS THAT HE HAD BROUGHT FROM THE UNITED STATES, THE OFFICIALS WERE "VERY EXCITED, ALMOST LIKE CHILDREN".

3. PROFESSOR CHOU PROPOSED AN EXCHANGE OF MUSICIANS, MATERIALS, AND TECHNICIANS AND BOTH CHAO ENG AND LI TE-LUNG RESPONDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY. THERE WAS VERY LITTLE DISCUSSION ABOUT WAITING FOR NORMALIZATION TO EXPAND EXCHANGES. MORE SPECIFICALLY LI TE-LUNG SUGGESTED THAT THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGES OCCUR, PREFERABLY IN 1978:

- A PIANIST, A VIOLINIST AND A SINGER VISIT THE PRC EITHER AS INDIVIDUALS OR AS A GROUP;
- THE US SEND YOUNG AMERICANS OF CHINESE DESCENT WHO SPEAK CHINESE AND ARE WESTERN TRAINED;
- PROFESSOR CHOU WEN-CHUNG WAS INVITED TO RETURN TO THE PRC AND GIVE A SERIES OF LECTURES TO MUSICIANS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ABOUT RECENT MUSICAL DEVELOPMENTS

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IN THE WEST.

- THERE BE AN EXCHANGE OF MUSICAL AND ARTS RESEARCH MATERIALS AS WELL AS FILMS AND RECORDINGS ON UNUSUAL TECHNIQUES AND LATEST MUSICAL DEVELOPMENTS.
- A PRC SOLOIST AND CONDUCTOR TOUR THE US AS GUEST ARTISTS.

WHILE THESE PROPOSALS NEED MINISTRY OF CULTURE APPROVAL, THE MUSICIANS SAID THEY WERE STRONGLY PUSHING THESE SUGGESTIONS AND IMPLIED THAT APPROVAL WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. PROFESSOR CHOU TOLD USLO THAT THESE EXCHANGES WILL BE DONE ON A PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE BASIS AND FOR THIS REASON HE MAY NOT ASK FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEE ASSISTANCE BUT INSTEAD SET UP A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. CHOU WILL HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH ART ROSEN AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE WHEN HE RETURNS.

4. PROFESSOR CHOU ALSO HELD DISCUSSIONS ON WHAT GROUPS WOULD VISIT THE PRC UNDER NATIONAL COMMITTEE AUSPICES; THE MUSICIANS HERE ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL THAT THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE SEND A SMALL

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA TO THE PRC TO PERFORM AND  
EXCHANGE TECHNICAL INFORMATION. THE PRC SIDE WANTS  
THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM CLASSICAL MUSIC BUT  
THEY DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF MORE  
MODERN PIECES. TECHNICAL DETAILS WILL BE WORKED OUT  
AT A LATER DATE. THE VISIT WOULD BE IN RESPONSE  
TO THE SUMMER 1977 VISIT TO THE US OF THE PRC  
PERFORMING ARTS TROUPE.  
WOODCOCK

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